

Officers

Thomas Johansen President
Sylvia Smith Vice President
Pat Tunney Secretary
Teri Schuerlein Treasurer

1881 Museum Committee

Thomas Johansen 518 742 9035
Edna Trumble 518 494 2270
John Donovan 518 494 7432
Judy Levine 518 494 2530

Town of Horicon Historical Society

P.O. Box 51

Brant Lake, N.Y. 12815

Website: horiconny.gov/museumhistorical-society

Trustees

Barbara Blum
Camille Dougan
Barbara La Fond
Robert Smith
Edna Trumble

Town Historian

Colleen Murtagh

August 20, 2014



Dear Neighbor:

In October 1880, concerned citizens of Adirondack (then called Mill Brook) gathered together to discuss building a church for their young hamlet. In May 1881 Mill Brook's Union Church (shared between local Methodists and Baptists) was born, opened through a spirit of community cooperation that continues to this day.

...Seven years later, in the summer of 1887, a collection was taken up to purchase a bell for the church. \$83.00 was raised, and the bell installed still tolls in the Church building!

...Now, almost 130 years later, we turn to you, those who know and love our hamlet of Adirondack, NY, to help us once again.

For three years we have been canvassing the community and discovering our neighbors' passion and support for turning the now-unused Union Church in Adirondack, emblematic of our area's proud history, into the 1881 Historical Adirondack Museum (annex to the Horicon Historical Museum in Brant Lake).

- We've gathered the support of the Town of Horicon, including official resolutions to go forward;
- We've cleaned out massive amounts of debris, enabling us to use the church for indoor "garage sales" to start us on our way;
- We've installed new sump pumps and storm drain lines to keep the basement dry and stabilized;
- We've got a master plan for renovation and have preserved numerous historic artifacts to display when the building is ready; and,
- We've raised \$25,000 to-date from over 235 friends, neighbors and local businesses and have received \$5,000 in pledges from building suppliers for roofing materials, getting us a third of the way to our fundraising to enable us to stabilize the Church's foundation, repair the roof, and ready the site for full Museum use.

But from top to bottom, we are now at a major crossroads.

The building's foundation has continued to deteriorate, and unless we are able to raise an additional \$40,000 by October to complete work before the winter, it is unlikely we will be able to see our dream of a museum in Adirondack come to fruition.

If the original church Association was able to raise the needed funds, we can certainly do it again!

We ask that all community members give as deeply as they can to make this vision a reality. Please return the enclosed donation form to the Horicon Historical Society for the benefit of the Adirondack museum restoration fund. Your donation will tell us, the community, and the Town of Horicon how important this project and museum is to us all – and bring it one step closer to reality.

Respectfully, *Tom Edna John JNY*

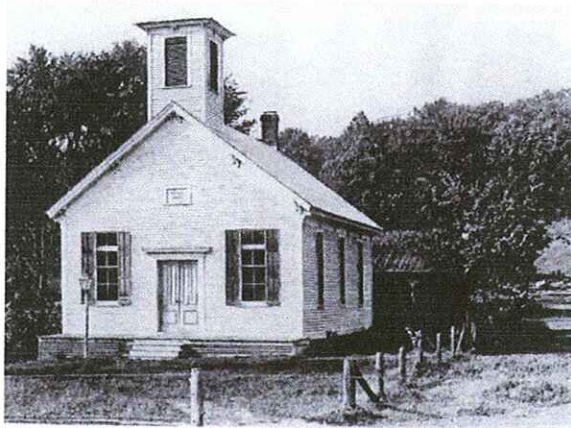
Your Neighbors on the Adirondack Horicon Historical 1881 Museum Committee

Horicon Historical Society Adirondack Museum Annex Fact Sheet

- 1881 – Seven Adirondack community families contributed funds, material, and labor to build a church, on land donated by Mr. Wells who owned the Tannery and general store.
- 1887 – These spirited individuals banded together again to raise funds for a Meneely & Co. bell for their beloved church, which still hangs useable to date.
- 133 years of love and use by the Adirondack community, including daily attendance, marriages, baptisms, burials...the memories go on and on for our community.
- 2010 – The church building is acquired by Town of Horicon due to non-ownership.
- 2011 – The Horicon Historical Society asks the Town for resolution to support a museum – it passes unanimously.
- A HHS committee begins solicitation of funds; collections to-date total almost \$25,000 and building materials suppliers have pledged \$5,000 in roofing materials, a third of our needed goal for essential building restorations.
- In three years, over 235 contributions of various amounts have been received to specifically promote this endeavor by individuals and businesses.
- We also received a grant for the digitization of the Museum's historical artifacts collection.
- 2014 – Rapid deterioration is surpassing our generous donations, grants and efforts to maintain the existing structure until we have reached our goal.
- While the original hickory beams in the roof and basement are in excellent condition, the structure is in need of immediate foundation and roof repair before any other renovations can begin.
- Near-term restoration required to preserve the building includes:
 - immediate foundation replacement due to its partial collapse this past winter;
 - replacing the entire roof which is presently leaking in several places for the last two years;
 - replacing deteriorated exterior siding on the bell tower; and,
 - painting of the structure.
- An interim emergency foundation repair contract was just awarded by the Town after sealed bids were received. This delicate task involves working within the existing damages, making the job detailed and extensive with continual monitoring efforts. The Society is paying \$3,200 cost of the emergency contract.
- Cost of the full foundation work before construction season closes is \$40k; roof work and bell tower and painting is an additional \$20k. (An additional \$35k will eventually be required to complete the interior of the building, i.e. windows, electric, bath, walls, chandelier, loft ceiling and floors.)
- Completion of the restored Horicon Historical Museum Adirondack Annex will create a tourist attraction within the Adirondack community that will:
 - offer a visual, hands on educational opportunity for local residents, neighboring communities, visitors, educational facilities and organizations
 - create additional housing for local historic memorabilia
 - bring additional revenue to the area
 - and keep our hearts forever young with memories of yesterday and family.
- The Museum Annex will benefit not only Horicon residents but additionally enhance the cultural experience and economic growth of local business, visitors and the neighboring communities.

Help Us Save the 1881 Union Church Adirondack Museum!

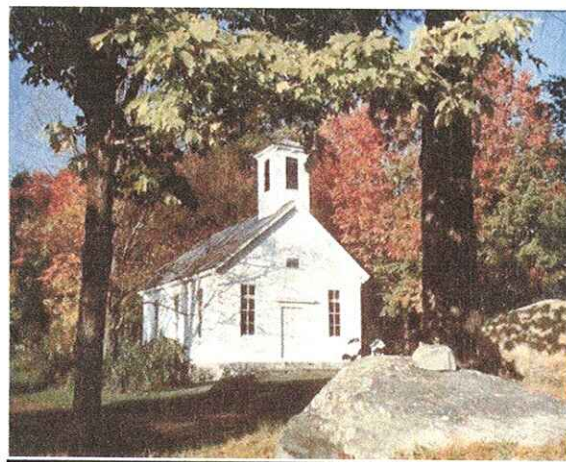
THEN...



NOW...



TOMORROW... WITH YOUR HELP!



For more info: Tom Johansen, Town of Horicon Historical Society, PO Box 51, Brant Lake, NY 12815
(518) 742-9035

☐ **Yes, I want to help preserve the Adirondack Union Church Building!**

Please accept my gift of:

☐ **\$100** ☐ **\$250** ☐ **\$500** ☐ **\$1,000** ☐ **\$2,500** ☐ **\$5,000** ☐ **Other**

All contributions will be acknowledged publicly at the Museum building.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Please mail contributions to:

Town of Horicon Historical Society– Church, PO Box 51, Brant Lake, NY 12815

The Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are fully tax deductible .